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VINTAGE 2010

THE CLIMATE

A dry year with an arid summer. The weather during the growing season, from early April to late September, was the driest since 1949. This water deficit caused dehydration in the vines, concentrating the grape juice and producing the highest values ever measured, particularly in terms of sugar content. The very cool nights promoted the accumulation of anthocyanins, so the 2010 red wines are the deepest-coloured in recent years.

SOME TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Harvest Dates:

From September 8th to October 8th

Blend:

Merlot Noir: 27 %;

Cabernet Sauvignon: 47 %;

Cabernet Franc: 26 %.

TASTING NOTE

The very deep colour of the wine is indicative of its concentration. The bouquet is very expansive, redolent of red-berry fruit. On the palate, this wine has an astonishingly imposing tannic structure for a second wine. It is also dazzlingly fresh, despite its impressive concentration. A wine full of contrasts: 2010 produced one of the most concentrated La Chapelle, but also one of the most beguiling.

RATINGS AND REVIEWS

Robert Parker - 93/100

Source: Wine Advocate #205 – Feb. 2013

The 2010 La Chapelle de La Mission which includes the production from the now-extinct La Tour Haut-Brion vineyard, is a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, which is a high percentage for the latter grape. Fleshy, succulent and opulent along the lines of the 2009 (which did surprise me), it is a big wine with boatloads of glycerin and a classic Graves character of scorched earth, burning embers, charcoal, and plenty of black cherry and blackcurrant fruit. The glycerin level is high, the fruit level impressive, and the purity and texture endearing. Drink it over the next 15 or so years.

“The finest La Chapelle de La Mission ever made”

Source: Wine Advocate #194 – May 2011

Neal Martin - 91-93/100

Source: Wine Journal - May 2011

A bright purple colour, this has a rounded, opulent bouquet with great purity, the 27% Merlot ebullient and luscious. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, very elegant and refined with an almost understated and yet precise, mineral finish. Very caressing and refined.

James Suckling - 93-94/100

Source: JamesSuckling.com - April 2011

The second wine of La Mission shows a lot of restraint this year. Blueberry and lemon rind aromas and flavors. It's full and silky with fine tannins and a fresh finish. Tangy acidity and bright fruit in the end.